

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5326

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 01816

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR, AU
SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN DENUNCIATION OF US AIR AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 45179

1. DURING THE COURSE OF A DINNER I GAVE IN HONOR OF FOREIGN MINISTER PAHR ON FEBRUARY 22, I FOUND THE OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE WITH HIM THE POINTS CITED IN REFTEL. PAHR INDICATED THAT HE WAS AWARE OF THE AUSTRIAN ACTION AND MENTIONED HAVING SEEN REPORTS ON THE SUBJECT FROM THE WASHINGTON EMBASSY.

2. PAHR TOLD ME THAT AUSTRIA WAS INTERESTED IN A CIVAIR AGREEMENT WITH THE US TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN SERVICES, BUT THAT THAT AGREEMENT SHOULD REFLECT "CHANGES" WHICH HAVE OCCURRED OVER THE PAST 12 YEARS AND WAS NECESSARY TO ASSURE "SURVIVAL" OF AUSTRIAN AIRLINES. HE SAID TOO THAT AN AGREEMENT COULD NOT BE AS FAVORABLE TO THE US AS THE 1966 AGREEMENT; HIS COMMENT CONVEYED AN EVIDENT GOA PERCEPTION OF IMBALANCE IN THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENT. PAHR ALSO IMPLIED THAT THE AUSTRIAN DELEGATION HAD PROPOSED NEGOTIATION OF A NEW AGREEMENT AFTER DENOUNCING THE OLD, AND THOUGHT THE US HAD ACCEPTED. I DID NOT RESPOND ON THIS POINT. (COMMENT: INFORMATION THUS FAR RECEIVED FROM CONFIDENTIAL

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DEPARTMENT DOES NOT INDICATE EITHER A PROPOSAL OR OUR ACCEPTANCE).

3. AS A NEXT STEP, I PROPOSED TO PAHR THAT AS SOON AS HE AND I HAD FULL REPORTS ON THE WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS WE SHOULD MEET TO REVIEW THE SITUATION. PAHR AGREED.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: SINCE MINISTER PAHR IS LEAVING SOON (PROBABLY MARCH 5) FOR AN EXTENDED VISIT TO THE NEAR EAST, I WOULD LIKE TO ARRANGE TO MEET WITH HIM SOMETIME NEXT WEEK. PRIOR TO THIS MEETING IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL TO HAVE THE TEXT OF THE DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF CONSULTATION WITH ANNOTATIONS AS TO WHAT THE AUSTRIANS REJECTED AND WHY (I.E. ADDITIONAL TO THOSE POINTS ALREADY REPORTED IN STATE 44010). I ALSO WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT PANAM'S CURRENT PLANS REGARDING VIENNA SERVICE ARE, AND WOULD WELCOME ANY GUIDANCE OR COMMENT FROM THE DEPARTMENT AS TO HOW IT SEES THE CIVAIR SCENARIO UNFOLDING AT THIS JUNCTURE.
WOLF

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